Survey of 2003 Municipal Voters

Colorado Springs, Colorado
Prepared By
Ridder/Braden, Inc.
Survey Conducted December 1-7, 2003
N = 300, Margin of Error is +/- 5.65%
Oversample of 100 voters each in District 1 & 3
Topline Results

METHODOLOGY: Participants were selected from a scientifically drawn random sample of registered voters. 300 interviews were completed Citywide of voters who participated in the April election. An additional 100 interviews in each District 1 and 3 were completed consisting of those people who remembered voting for Councilman Hente and Heimlicher, respectively.

Hello, my name is _____ from _____, a public opinion research firm. We are conducting a survey concerning your local community:

SCREEN: Are you registered to vote?
If Yes, CONTINUE
If No ask: Is there a registered voter at home I can speak to?
If No, TERMINATE

1. In April of this year, Colorado Springs held an election for City Council, Mayor, and a few municipal issues. To the best of your knowledge, did you vote in this election?

Yes	CONTINUE
No	TERMINATE
Don't Know	TERMINATE
DK/NA/REFUSED	TERMINATE

2003 Elections and the City Council

Let me read some candidates who ran for Mayor or the at-large positions on City Council. Please tell me if, to the best of your recollection, you voted that person, or not.

	All Voters			Hente Voters			Heimlicher Voters		
ROTATE	Yes	No	DK/NA	Yes	No	Dk/NA	Yes	No	DK/NA
2. Lionel Rivera	59%	31%	9%	71%	24%	5%	62%	24%	14%
3. Larry Small	17	54	29	28	40	32	22	50	28
4. Randy Purvis	24	53	22	38	41	21	31	41	28
5. Richard Skorman	38	46	17	37	53	10	45	43	13
6. Tom Gallagher	30	42	28	31	37	32	44	30	27

7. Generally speaking, do you think things in Colorado Springs are going in the right direction or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?

	All	CD1	CD3
Right direction	49%	55%	53%
Wrong track	44	37	41
DK/NA/REFUSED	7	8	5

8. Let me read you some of the most talked about issues during the April election for City Council. When I am done, please tell me which single issue had the MOST affect on your vote for City Council. Even if it's hard, please pick just one.
READ AND ROTATE

	All	CD1	CD3
Taxes	24%	20%	24%
The Economy	9	10	7
Health benefits for families of gay and lesbian City workers	15	22	15
Growth	27	22	32
Traffic	14	12	11
Size and role of city government	11	10	4
Other (DO NOT READ)	0	1	1
DK/NA/REFUSED	1	3	5

9. When you cast your vote, were you generally supportive of maintaining health benefits for partners of gay and lesbian city workers, did you favor revoking them, or was it not a major factor in your vote?

	All	CD1	CD3
Maintain benefits	20%	11%	22%
Revoke benefits	43	46	49
Not a major factor	36	40	28
DK/NA/Refused	0	2	1

10. At the time of the election, were you aware of how your choice of candidate or candidates felt about the City's policy of providing health coverage for same sex domestic partners and families of gay and lesbian City employees?

	All	CD1	CD3
Yes	70%	72%	70%
No	26	24	21
DK/NA	3	4	9

11. When you decided to vote, how important was it to you to see the health benefits revoked for the families of gay and lesbian City workers -- was that the single most important issue, one of many issues that affected your decision, or made no difference in your decision at all?

	All	CD1	CD3
Single most important issue	11%	10%	9%
One of many	53	49	51
Not important	35	39	34
DK/NA/REFUSED	1	1	6

Non-discrimination laws are intended to protect certain people from unfair treatment in the workplace. Let me read you some of the people who are currently, or may in the future be, protected by a law against workplace discrimination. For each one, please tell me how important you believe it is for that group of people to be protected against discrimination by the law.

All Voters

ROTATE		Very Imp	SW Imp	Not very Imp	Not at all Imp	DK NA
12.	African Americans	60%	26%	7%	5%	2%
13.	Hispanics	60	26	7	6	2
14.	People with disabilities	67	25	4	2	2
15.	Gays and lesbians	43	21	10	24	2
16.	Native Americans	63	25	5	5	2
17.	Senior Citizens	64	25	5	4	2

Council District 1 Oversample

ROTATE		Very Imp	SW Imp	Not very Imp	Not at all Imp	DK NA
12.	African Americans	49%	31%	5%	10%	4%
13.	Hispanics	48	35	3	9	4
14.	People with disabilities	57	36	1	3	3
15.	Gays and lesbians	24	34	9	28	5
16.	Native Americans	55	32	1	8	4
17.	Senior Citizens	56	32	1	7	4

Council District 3 Oversample

ROTATE		Very Imp	SW Imp	Not very Imp	Not at all Imp	DK NA
12.	African Americans	63%	26%	5%	5%	1%
13.	Hispanics	62	24	6	5	2
14.	People with disabilities	67	22	4	5	1
15.	Gays and lesbians	37	16	11	34	2
16.	Native Americans	65	21	6	6	1
17.	Senior Citizens	66	28	2	5	0

18. In general, do you consider nondiscrimination laws protecting people from discrimination in the workplace to be an issue of fairness or of special rights?

	All	CD1	CD3
Fairness	68%	58%	68%
Special rights	26	32	27
DK/NA	6	10	5

19. Currently, it is legal for the City of Colorado Springs to refuse to hire, to fire or to discriminate against city workers based on their sexual orientation. Would you support or oppose an employment non-discrimination policy protecting City workers from discrimination in the workplace based on their sexual orientation, as other minority groups are now protected? (IF FAVOR/OPPOSE: Is that strongly, or just somewhat?)

		All	CD1	CD3
Strongly support	(SKIP NEXT Q.)	43%	32%	40%
Somewhat support	(SKIP NEXT Q.)	22	30	20
Somewhat oppose		8	10	12
Strongly oppose		21	21	18
DK/NA/REFUSED		5	7	10

20. If the City of Colorado Springs could benefit from new grant money and take advantage of additional funding sources if it had an employment non-discrimination policy in place that includes sexual orientation, would that make you more favorable to the policy, less favorable, or would it have no affect on your opinion?

	All	CD1	CD3
Be more favorable to policy	5%	5%	5%
Be less favorable to policy	32	30	3
No affect	60	59	57
DK/NA	3	5	8

21. Equitable employment policies for gays and lesbians are considered by the majority of Fortune 500 companies to be good business. Do you think similarly equitable employment policies for city workers could help attract new business and improve our local economy?

	All	CD1	CD3
Yes	45%	34%	31%
No	39	41	50
DK/NA/Refused	16	25	16

22. There has been a recent employee buy-in health benefit proposal to allow a city employee to include a dependent family member, such as a child, partner or parent in their health benefits with the employee paying the entire additional premium. Would you support or oppose such a policy?

	All	CD1	CD3
Support	71%	73%	69%
Oppose	20	14	26
DK/NA	9	12	5

23. How would a future candidates' position in favor of the employee buy in health benefit affect your vote for them?

	All	CD1	CD3
Very important	26%	19%	22%
Somewhat important	50	43	55
Not important	22	33	20
DK/NA	2	5	2

Demographics

This completes the major part of our survey. Now I would like to ask just a few questions for demographic purposes.

24. Age.

	All	CD1	CD3
18-24	2%	0%	1%
25-34	9	7	3
35-44	19	11	10
45-54	23	24	13
55-64	19	33	27
65+	27	23	44
Refused	2	2	3

25. For demographic purposes to make sure we have an accurate sample, do you consider yourself white, African American, Hispanic, or something else?

	All	CD1	CD3
White	85%	89%	91%
African American	1	1	0
Hispanic	7	3	2
Other	6	4	2
DK/NA/Refused	1	3	4

26. When it comes to local politics, do you generally consider yourself to be progressive, moderate, or conservative?

	All	CD1	CD3
Progressive	12%	13%	12%
Moderate	39	34	30
Conservative	46	51	53
DK/NA	2	2	5

27. At which point did you stop your formal education?

	All	CD1	CD3
Less than high school	2%	2%	4%
High School	11	6	12
Tech College or less	3	6	4
Some College	22	15	20
College graduate	26	28	22
Advanced Degree	26	18	24
DK/NA/Refused	1	2	2

28. Please tell me the approximate income of your family last year?

	All	CD1	CD3
Below $20,000	7%	5%	11%
$21 - 30,000	8	8	9
$31 - 50,000	23	19	24
$51 - 75,000	22	23	10
Over $75,000	25	28	22
DK/NA/Refused	15	18	24

Thank you, that ends our interview. Good day/night.

DO NOT ASK BUT RECORD

29. GENDER

	All	CD1	CD3
Male	45%	55%	38%
Female	55	45	62

30. CODE CITY COUNCIL

	All	CD1	CD3
1	31%	100%	0%
2	27	0	0
3	27	0	100%
4	15	0	0

31. PARTY AFFILIATION

	All	CD1	CD3
Republican	58%	66%	72%
Democrat	23	18	18
Unaffiliated	19	16	10

32. VOTE HISTORY

	All	CD1	CD3
1 of last 4	5%	3%	6%
2 of last 4	21	16	11
3 of last 4	21	22	13
4 of last 4	53	59	70